



Department of Justice

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JASPER MAN CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL USE OF TOXIC PESTICIDE

PRESS RELEASE

Evansville - Paul Ficker, 67, Jasper, Ind., was charged today with illegal use of acutely toxic pesticide and making false statements, following an investigation by the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

The charging document alleges that in June, 2008, Ficker acquired Furadan, an acutely toxic pesticide, and mixed it with corn intending to poison birds that were feeding on a corn patch he was tending in Jasper, Ind. Furadan is a restricted use pesticide due to its acute toxicity, and its use as bait for wildlife is strictly prohibited.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney A. Brant Cook, who is prosecuting the case for the government, Ficker faces a maximum of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. An initial hearing will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge.

An Information is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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